

Message

From: Allnutt, David [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6E28F5BF9CBF4B8B9EDA7751C2F10750-ALLNUTT, DAVID]
Sent: 4/8/2016 2:59:46 AM
To: R10-ORA [R10-ORA@epa.gov]
CC: Tyson, Linda [Tyson.Linda@epa.gov]; Manaloor, Valsala [Manaloor.Valsala@epa.gov]; Soderlund, Dianne [Soderlund.Dianne@epa.gov]; Edmondson, Lucy [Edmondson.Lucy@epa.gov]; Barber, Anthony [Barber.Anthony@epa.gov]; Wernitz, James [Wernitz.James@epa.gov]; Opalski, Dan [Opalski.Dan@epa.gov]; Stern, Allyn [Stern.Alyn@epa.gov]; Dunbar, Bill [dunbar.bill@epa.gov]; Anderson-Carnahan, Linda [Anderson-Carnahan.Linda@epa.gov]; Littleton, Christine [Littleton.Christine@epa.gov]; MacIntyre, Mark [Macintyre.Mark@epa.gov]; Philip, Jeff [Philip.Jeff@epa.gov]; Szerlog, Michael [Szerlog.Michael@epa.gov]; Thomas, Sally [Thomas.Sally@epa.gov]
Subject: EPA Hot Topics
Attachments: ATT23307; ATT27772; ATT33896; ATT41811; ATT50142; ATT90906; ATT99968

For the week of April 11, 2016

This Week:

Angoon Airport Project: EPA intends to initiate the CWA § 404(q) dispute resolution process with the Alaska District of the Corps of Engineers before the April 14 deadline to comment on the Corps' public notice for this project. The dispute resolution process will be initiated by submission of a "3a" letter under the Corps-EPA 404(q) Memorandum of Agreement. Alaska DOT proposes to build a land-based airport approximately 55 miles from Juneau in Tongass National Forest on Admiralty Island National Monument and Kootznooko Wilderness Area. The Monument-Wilderness Area is subject to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. For ANILCA lands to be developed as an airport, the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA), Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Forest Service must agree that an ANILCA Title XI application is adequate and then proceed through an evaluation process. Ultimate authority to approve or disapprove an ANILCA Title XI application rests with the President and Congress. This proposal is being separately reviewed through an FAA-led NEPA review process. The FAA's draft EIS for this project concluded that ADOT's proposed alternative was not the environmentally preferred alternative. Through NEPA comment letters, EPA has agreed with the FAA that the preferred alternative (identified as alternative 12a in the DEIS) involved construction at a different location (within the town of Angoon) rather than in the Monument-Wilderness area. The preferred alternative, as outlined in the DEIS, has fewer adverse environmental impacts, including impacts to aquatic resources (wetlands and streams) when compared to the proposal in the public notice, would be substantially less expensive to build and maintain, and would not be subject to ANILCA. Contact: Mark Douglas (1-1217). _

Gateway Pacific Coal Terminal Project: On April 1, Pacific International Holdings, LLC suspended the NEPA process for the Gateway Pacific Terminal in Whatcom County. This is significant because EPA Region 10 and EPA HQ staff and management have been actively involved in the GPT EIS process as a NEPA cooperating agency with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and as a SEPA participating agency with the Washington State Department of Ecology. To date we have reviewed and commented on 11 of 24 technical reports. The proponent's letter invokes a 45-day suspension because of the extended timing of the Corps' consideration of the Lummi Tribe's claims under the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott, among other factors. Contact: Erik Peterson (3-6382).

Upcoming:

Donlin Mine: On April 30, Region 10 will have two deadlines associated with this project: comments on the Corps of Engineers' draft EIS are due under our NEPA and CAA § 309 authorities; and the Corps' 404 public notice period closes, triggering our deadline to elevate concerns under the 404(q) Memorandum of Agreement regarding issuance of a CWA § 404 permit for the project. Review of the DEIS and 404 permitting issues is ongoing. The RA will be briefed on April 20. Significant issues include: the lack of a health impact analysis (HIA) in the DEIS; functional assessment methodologies; conflicting estimates of aquatic resource impacts in the DEIS and the public notice; and insufficient information to assess issues surrounding direct and indirect effects and avoidance, minimization, and compensatory mitigation of aquatic resources. Contacts: Mark Jen (1-3411); Matt LaCroix (1-1480).

Multipurpose Tribal Grants: Of the \$21 million delineated in the FY16 budget for state and tribal implementation activities, \$1 million was set aside for high priority tribal implementation activities. These funds will be targeted to CWA implementation activities associated with EPA-approved water quality standards programs. Tribes that have TAS for WQS as of the effective date of the guidance can apply to use this funding in conjunction with their Section 106 funds to implement their water quality standards program. OW has already given a head's up to NTC Chairman Billy Maines and NTWC Chairman Ken Norton. Contact: Sally Thomas (3-2102).

For the ET Notes from April 4 ET Meeting Roundtable

Angoon Airport Project: Alaska DOT proposes to build a land-based airport approximately 55 miles from Juneau in Tongass National Forest on Admiralty Island National Monument and Kootznoowoo Wilderness Area. Building the airport at this location was analyzed in a draft EIS prepared by the FAA and determined not to be the environmentally preferred alternative. ETPA is considering whether to initiate the CWA § 404(q) dispute resolution process with the Alaska District of the Corps of Engineers before the April 14 deadline to comment on the Corps' public notice for this project. Dennis will be briefed on this project later this week.

Gateway Pacific Coal Terminal Project: On April 1, Pacific International Holdings, LLC suspended the NEPA process for the Gateway Pacific Terminal in Whatcom County. This is a significant because EPA Region 10 and EPA HQ staff and management have been actively involved in the GPT EIS process as a NEPA cooperating agency with the U.S Army Corps of Engineers and as a SEPA participating agency with the Washington State Department of Ecology. To date we have reviewed and commented on 11 of 24 technical reports. The proponent's letter invokes a 45-day suspension because of the extended timing of the Corps' consideration of the Lummi Tribe's claims under the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott, among other factors.

Congressional Relations Fact Sheet: ETPA has updated its fact sheet on the policies and procedures surrounding communications with members of Congress and their staffs. The fact sheet contains contact information and tips for staff who are contacted by Congressional offices. The fact sheet can be found on the Intranet page under "Congressional Contacts in R10."

OD & AD Travel/Significant Leave:

David Allnutt— IN Mon/Fri, OUT Tue/Wed/Thu (International Travel). Jeff Philip will be acting OD.

Linda Anderson-Carnahan— Out Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri (Leave)

Valsala Manaloor— IN Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri

Linda Tyson— IN Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri



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